

Home Going Celebration
Mother Celestine Langston



Sunrise, March 08, 1908

Sunset, September 25, 2010

"She fought a good fight, she finished her course, she keep the faith..."
(2 Tim. 4:7)

Official Celebration

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2010 <> 11:00AM
GLAD TIDING CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
27689 TYRRELL AVENUE
HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA 94544

OFFICIATING
SUPERINTENDENT JOSEPH E. LANGSTON, SENIOR PASTOR
LANGSTON MEMORIAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

BISHOP JERRY W. MACKLIN, PRELATE / HOST PASTOR
27689 TYRRELL AVENUE
HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA 94544

Eulogist: Bishop James L. Langston, Jr.



Mother Scelestine Conway Langston's Story

Scelestine "Stick" Conway, Langston is the oldest of the three born to Louis and Orelia Jenkins, Conway on March 8th, 1908 in Jeanerette (New Iberia) Louisiana. When she was about 3 years old, she and her family moved to Beaumont, Texas where she attended a church sponsored childcare. At the age of 4, her family unit was separated. Scelestine and her sister Thelma return to Louisiana with her father. Her mother and brother Joseph moved to Houston, Texas. In those days the father was given the custody of the girls and the mother was given the custody of the boys. At the age of seven her father married Ms. Annie Bell and moved to Dallas, Texas. Her brother was the only missing piece to a happy family living together. Scelestine was always willing to help out with the financial needs of her family. Scelestine was unable to work at times because her father had a serious case of asthma and she sympathized with her father's health problems and made every effort to accommodate his needs.

In obedience to her Grandmother Mary, she always called her stepmother, "Polly". She always spoke highly of her Stepmother Polly whom she loved dearly. Polly took the place of a mother she never had. Very little conversation went without the mentioning of sweet memories, tender and loving-kindness coupled with Godly guidance that her stepmother Poly showed her with genuine love. Scelestine's mouth called her stepmother, "Polly", but her heart called her, "Mother".

The family moved to North Dallas, Texas which marked the first time she had been recorded in the census. At the age of 12, she joined New Zion Baptist Church where her parents were members. Scelestine served as assistant Sunday School Secretary. She prided herself of her excellent record keeping. At the age of 15, she purchased a custom built home and the family moved to Oak Cliff. She described the community as one where the saints welcomed the new comers. The saints were people who came to the aid of the community when asked. These people were members of the "Sanctified" church. Scelestine spoke of this time as the most wonderful time in her life. She and her sister were called the Conway Girls and were well respected and loved in the community. She was so moved and touched by the living spirit of these sanctified people that she started "Seeking the Holy Ghost"

At about sixteen years old Scelestine started working in a laundry. This job came about when her stepmother took her to work one day and the foreman noticed her work. She weighed 98 pounds and earned \$9.00 a week. She started as a mangle presser. She was promoted to a Special Collar Girl and given a raise to \$10.00 a week. She worked at there for three years and learned to love her job. She resigned when her family moved to Amarillo due to her father's health. Scelestine was given a letter of accommodation and recommendation when she left Dallas, Texas.

Scelestine was a little over 18 years old when she arrived in Amarillo, Texas which was the beginning of a new chapter of her life. At last, the whole family would be together. She was ecstatic. Amarillo was where she got the nickname "Stick" because she weighed 98lbs. The Holy Ghost filled females joined 213 Madison Street Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Pastor J.L. Langston.





The family lived in walking distance of 213 Madison. Reverend Langston was so happy for the membership of such a big family, the Conway's, already baptized, filled with the Holy Ghost and Fire. Yes, the pastor was truly blessed; however, neither had any idea of the blessing that was in store. Scelestine and Reverend J.L. Langston were married in holy matrimony on May 21, 1928. Her lifetime friend Ola Mae Driver, Crawford was one of the bride maids. It was the first African American wedding in Amarillo, Texas. The wedding had citywide attendance and was highlighted with a parade. To this union was born four sons and seven daughters. Eloise, LaJuanah, Orelia, James, Gloretha, Luther, Joseph, LouisCharlotte, Barbara and Scelestine.

First Lady Scelestine Langston moved into the parsonage. Her duties included everything that needed to be done at the church and the parsonage. She prepared the hot meals for the homeless people that Rev. Langston bedded down in the church and parsonage, which were many during the time of the depression.

1940, Scelestine had birthed six children. Her family had outgrown the space in the parsonage. During World War II they were forced to turn many needed people away because they had no space. The records show that in 1938 Scelestine and Reverend Langston served for 550 clients; in 1939- 750 clients, in 1940 - 1200, in 1941 -1,550 clients and in 1942-1,900 clients. They processed about 2,500 to 3,000 annually during World War II. In 1947 Scelestine's family moved to another section of Amarillo known as North Heights to a two-story home. It had running water, electricity, a balcony, inside toilet, all brand new furniture, large front/back yard coupled with the privacy, it was heavenly. In 1949, Scelestine and Rev. Langston opened a Rescue Home. During the first year of operation, they served more than 6,000 meals, gave aid to more than 2,200 needy people and entertained more than 4,000 visitors.

In 1953 Scelestine gave birth to her eleventh child. The Langston family was the largest family in Amarillo, Texas at that time. She had no quality time for herself what so ever. Her sewing machine was going as much as the kitchen stove. She made mostly all of the family clothing. Scelestine was the family's beautician and barber. Her husband provided tremendously for the family. By this time, the Langston children were enrolled in every educational level. Some were in Lexington, Mississippi, Lubbock, Texas, Austin, Texas as well as Amarillo, Texas. Scelestine never stopped providing the same quality of hot meals and hospitality to the homeless; providing a warm place to bed down the outcast; selling church dinner and working at her husband's side.

During a period of time, a series of tragic events took place, Scelestine's beloved father passed after a serious battle with his health, she lost her sister as a result of a gunshot and the two-story home caught fire. All the family's belongings were destroyed. She was so exhausted with her humanitarian commitment, family duties and responsibilities that it was truly the Holy Ghost that provided the strength and comfort required to make it through these times.

In 1954, Scelestine and her family moved in their new home. It was the next street from the Rescue Home. Scelestine's Husband always provided the very best for the family and she certainly deserved it. For the first time, her marriage could be delegated to her immediate family members. This comfort zone lasted for about a minute. Her husband was busy developing houses throughout the city. He had begun pasturing two churches and owned and operated various businesses throughout the city. Her husband's activities were never ending and traveling out of the city was just into his series of engagements.

Service of Remembrance Mother Scelestine Langston

Friday Service
October 8th, 2010, 7:00pm

Elder Guysell D. Geter.....Officiating

THE PRELUDE:

THE HYMN OF COMFORT.....*The Scelestine Langston Memorial Choir*

THE INVOCATION *Elder Charles Bryant*

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ...Psalm 90:1-4 *Mother Francis Scott*

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ..St. John 14:1-4 *Missionary Barbara Williams*

THE MUSICAL SELECTION..... *The Scelestine Langston Memorial Choir*

HAMILTON MEMORIAL CHURCH TRIBUTE..... *Junior Church Mother Gloria Carter*

REFLECTIONS: HAMILTON MEMORIAL CHURCH (2 Minutes Each)

Mother's Board, Missionary LaDoris Richardson < Women's Dept., Missionary Marie Bryant

Mission Dept., Missionary Tommie Collins < Youth Dept., Missionary Tiffany Geter

Deacon Board, Deacon Bill Goring < Men's Dept. Minister Paris Reed

MUSICAL SELECTION*The Scelestine Langston Memorial Choir*

THE LIVES SHE TOUCHED.....(2 Minutes Each).....*Family and Friends*

SPECIAL TRIBUTE*Missionary L. Burten*
(Emmanuel C.O.G.I.C.)

A CHURCH MOTHER..... *Missionary Bernie Broussard*

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CARDS:*Missionary Linda S. Reed*

THE CONDOLENCES & RESOLUTIONS *Missionary Barbara Webb*

THE CLERICAL EXPRESSIONS(2 minutes Each).....*Pastors, Ministers, Clergy*

MUSICAL SELECTION.....*Mother Scelestine Langston Memorial Choir*

WORDS OF COMFORT.....*Elder Robert D. Collier*

THE PARTING VIEW AND RECESSIONAL

Home Going Celebration

Mother Scelestine Langston

Saturday Official Service

October 9th, 2010, 11:00am

".....Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints....." (Psalm 116:15)

Superintendent Joseph E. Langston.....Officiating

THE PRELUDE:

THE PROCESSIONAL:

The Adjutants and Attendants
The Presiding Bishops
The Ecumenical and Denominational Leaders
The Pastors and Elders
The Family of Mother Scelestine Langston
The Special Guest

THE HYMN OF CONFORT.....*The Scelestine Langston Memorial Choir*

THE INVOCATION *Superintendent Daniel Stevens*

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THE CHORAL RESPONSE *The Scelestine Langston Memorial Choir*

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ..St. John 14:1-4 *Superintendent J. Q. Jones*

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THE FAMILY EXPRESSIONS:*Mother LaJuanah Lunceford (Daughter)*
Dr. Louis C. Langston, (Son)
Missionary Bertha Langston (Daughter-in-law)

THE CLERICAL EXPRESSIONS(2 minutes each).....*Pastors, Ministers, Clergy*

THE MUSICAL SELECTION

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CARDS:*Missionary Linda Reed*

THE CONDOLENCES & RESOLUTIONS *Missionary Barbara Webb*

THE FINAL PRESENTATIONS & NATIONAL TRIBUTE(S)

The Right Reverend Jerry W. Macklin
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop, Church of God in Christ, Inc.

THE OBITUARY *Read Silently*

SPECIAL EXPRESSIONS.....*Bishop Yvette A Flunder*
The Fellowship / Refuge Ministries, UCC

THE EULOGY *The Most Reverend James L. Langston, Jr.*
Senior Pastor / Hamilton Memorial Church



During 1957 thru 1961, Scelestine was almost educated out...8 children in college and 2 in high school and 1 in grade school; however, she and her husband had promised to educate all of their children.

In 1964, Scelestine and her husband moved to San Francisco. Their first stop was to join Emanuel Church of God in Christ. February 9th, 1968 Reverend Langston passed at the age of 69 with prostate cancer. She was at his bedside for his every beck and call. Husband's funeral was the first time all of her children were in the same place at the same time. She made it clear that his void could never be filled and it held true until this day.

In 1970, Scelestine joined Hamilton Memorial Church of God in Christ under the leadership of her oldest son. In 1972 thru 2003, Scelestine moved to Oakland, CA and rented from by her daughter and son-in-law, Eloise and Bill Goring. April 1, 2003, she moved to Harriet Tubman Terrace. This was the first time in her life she had ever lived alone.

Scelestine had many birthday celebrations but the high light of all activities was her 100th birthday. She was so thrilled, enthused and appreciative. She feared that because her daughter, Ruth Ella had passed and was no longer the coordinator, she would not have the shindig that reaching 100years merited. That celebration was just like a rebirth of her. Her pastor and son, Bishop J.L. Langston picked up the mantle and the Hamilton Memorial Church family made her dream birthday a reality. Scelestine said it was the best party she ever had and there was nothing that could top it. One has to admit that she was a hard act to follow and was an extraordinary individual. Scelestine's mind was as agile and alert as ever. Her projects for the weekend was being dressed and organized for church. It started with checking with her daughter LaJuanah to see if she felt well enough to go to church, calling her granddaughter Wendy to do her hair and checking with her grandson Eric to find out his basketball coaching activities.

he was certain that she could depend on Eric because he always made himself available and assumed her responsibilities in more ways than one. Between her grandson and granddaughter and Wendy, Scelestine was genuine cared for. Scelestine and her grandson Eric bonded to continue delivering the best tasting dishes from her home and the welcome mat still existed. The huge pots and pans were still in use. She once loved to bake cakes, pies, tea cakes and other pastries. Scelestine did not appear to be successful in getting her grandson Eric interested in that aspect of cooking. Never the less, she pushed her way in the mix of the holidays. Her energy prevented her from sitting around waiting for help. She enjoyed all the goodies and treats around her bed whenever she watched "Price is Right" Wheel of Fortune, Dr, Phil and Jeopardy. She enjoyed riding. She prided herself by saying, "I can be ready at a moment's notice.

Her house was always adorned with the evidence of her green thumb. She was intrigued with the plants that son and daughter, Luther and Delorise added to her family of plants. On special occasions, Scelestine received dozens and dozens of flower arrangement totaling to hundreds of flowers sometimes. She could attest, "Give me my flowers while I yet live". Scelestine marveled over how blessed she was to have had such caring and wonderful in-laws. She said, "Robert's home is like the Rescue Home for his in-laws. Robert and Bill have certainly been a big help to this family. She had only good things to say about her in-laws. Sometimes it was as if the in-laws got the higher ratings.



The most significant and historical events in Scelestine in her life were her grandson for getting married on time and witnessing the fifth generation of great, great grand grandchildren. On her 100th birthday, Scelestine was honored by the City of Berkeley, Happy Birthday greeting from The White House, California Legislature Assembly, Certificate of Honor from San Francisco, Recognition for Judge Thelma Wyatt Moore, Congratulations from U.S. Senate and many, many, many birthday greetings, cards, telephone calls; matter of fact, too many to name one by one.

This was a very significant and historical event for her. Scelestine was featured in many of the neighboring newspapers. After publication, she became hearing from far and near old friends. It was the most memorable occasion that she spoke of.

Every month her son and daughter-in-law, L.J. and Delorise faithfully sent her a monetary gift. Her face glowed when she spoke of the faithfulness of its arrival and the daily telephone calls to see how she was doing. Of course, those funds are flanked with monetary good wills and gifts from her love ones. Scelestine loved giving to charitable causes. She had several organizations that she contributed. The grandchildren graduations, siblings birthdays, and special occasions are just a few.

"In 1970, Scelestine took hands on care for her grandson Eric. And the last years of her quality of life, Eric had hands on care for his grandmother, Scelestine." She said that she never could have made it had it not been for Eric. Her granddaughter Wendy is her silent invisible helper, she is on skates to provide her grandmother with the same kind of devotion as her grandson.

Scelestine Conway Langston was preceded in death by parents: Mother (Orelia Jenkins Johnson) Father and Stepmother (Louis & Polly Conway), Husband (Supt. J.L. Langston), three daughters (Orelia Langston, Eloise Goring & Barbara Hayes), Best Friend (Ola Mae Crawford), Daughter-in-Law (Ruth Ella Langston), left to mourn are 4 sons (Bishop James L. Langston of South San Francisco, CA, Luther Jean of Sacramento and wife Delorise, Dr. Louis Conway and wife Sandra Mae of Castro Valley, CA and Supt. Joseph Eugene and wife Bertha of Antioch, CA; 2 Sons -in-Laws: Bill Goring and wife Martha of San Francisco and Robert C. Hayes of Union City; 4 Daughters: LaJuanah L. Lunceford of Berkeley, Gloretha Langston of San Francisco, CA, Charlotte R. Brown of Los Angeles and Scelestine Turner of Oakland, CA; 1 Adopted daughter: Dorothy Levy of Daly City, CA; 1 nephew: George Allen and wife of Tracy, CA, Grandchildren: Marvis D. Caldwell and wife, Wyndol J. Caldwell and partner, Cindy Hicks Ramsay and husband, Ronald G. Lunceford, Peter Iran Lunceford, Eric Loren Langston Holloway, Robert C. Hayes, Jr and wife, Isaak Hayes and wife, Ebony W. Duffy, Luther J. Langston and wife, David Lynn Langston, Vashti LeAnn Hayes, Shez Carter, Vontallio Carter, Kryston Langston, Yvette Flunder, Leonard Conner, Donna Simmons, Carla, Niece Linda McCoy, Hamilton Memorial Church Family, a host of great grandchildren and great,great grandchildren, friends and love ones



Active Pallbearers

*Von Carter
Eric Hollaway
Jeremie Taylor
Peter Lunceford*

*Chezarone Carter
Luther Langston, Jr.
Armond Burns
Ronald Lunceford*

Honorary Pallbearers

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Dr. William S. Goring
Minister Ron Spruill
Elder Robert D. Collier*

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Mother Lorraine Norman
Mother Bernie Broussard
Missionary Barbara Williams*

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Mother Zan Anderson
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Deacon Boards

*Hamilton Memorial Church
Langston Memorial Church of God in Christ
New Life Church of God in Christ*

Acknowledgements

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Bryant MORTUARY

*635 Fulton Street
San Francisco, CA 94115*

Interment:

*Olivet Memorial Park / Monday 11, 2010 / 1:00 PM
(family members)
1100 El Camino Real at Colma Blvd.
Colma, CA 94014*

Fellowship Dinner Location

*Glad Tiding Church of God in Christ / Hayward, CA.
(Immediately following the service)*

Service of Remembrance
"The Matriarch" of The Langston Family
Mother Scelestine Conway Langston



101 Years



100 Years



102 Years

102 Years and 6 Months



Sunrise: March 8, 1908

Sunset: September 25, 2010

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Hamilton Memorial Church / 2398 Geary Boulevard

San Francisco, California 94115

Officiating: Elder Guysell D. Geter

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